

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193789

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:AR DAY:DPW

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

PM:DNIEMI

DOD/OSD/ISA:COL. THOMPSON (SUBS)

S/S:O D. MACK

DOD/OSD/ISA:COL. PRADOS (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 193789

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL TEAM

REF: AMMAN 5452

FOR PICKERING FROM AHERTON

1. WE UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE LEARNED BY NOW FROM DOSCH THAT HUGHES HAS RECONSIDERED QUESTION OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN JORDAN AIR DEFENSE SEMINAR AND HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH IT. (WE GATHER ADVERSE COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF PULL-OUT REPORTED BY DOSCH, COUPLED WITH RENEWED REPRESENTATIONS BY DOD AND DEPT, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN PERSUADING FIRM TO REVERSE ITS EARLIER DECISION.) HUGHES INFORMS US IT CAN HAVE TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM ITS CALIFORNIA HEAD-OFFICE IN AMMAN BY MID-SEPTEMBER AND PROMISES THEY WILL PUT ON GOOD SHOW FOR GOJ.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 193789

2. WE HOPE THIS WILL MITIGATE JORDANIAN DISAPPOINTMENT

AT OUR NOT BEING ABLE SEND COMMAND AND CONTROL TEAM IN AUGUST. AFTER RECEIVING YOUR TELEGRAM, WE REVIEWED WITH DEFENSE POSSIBILITY OF PROCEEDING WITH TEAM BUT WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE RISKS INVOLVED FOR HAWK SALE ITSELF THAT ARE NOT WORTH TAKING. WE APPRECIATE THAT JORDANIANS MAY BE DISAPPOINTED (THOUGH WITH KING AND RIFAI TRAVELING IN THE AREA WE WONDER WHETHER REACTION WILL GO ABOVE MILITARY LEVEL). BUT IF WE HAVE TO CHOOSE WE WOULD PREFER RISKING THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT TO ADDING ANOTHER NEGATIVE FACTOR TO FRAGILE SITUATION WE HAVE IN CONGRESS.

3. SINCE TYPE OF WEAPONS JORDANIANS WILL ULTIMATELY POSSESS WILL BE UNCERTAIN UNTIL LATER SEPTEMBER AT EARLIEST, IT WOULD SEEM TO US PREMATURE FOR JORDANIANS TO PROCEED WITH MARCONI MEETING NOW. THIS IS UP TO GOJ, BUT WE WOULD THINK THEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF POSTPONING THIS PRESENTATION UNTIL THEY KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHAT WEAPONS ARE TO BE INVOLVED.

4. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE JORDANIAN FEELING THAT WE WERE BREAKING FAITH BY POSTPONING TEAM'S VISIT, SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT LOA ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN NEITHER PROFFERED NOR ACCEPTED. FACT OF MATTER IS THAT ARRANGEMENT TO SEND TEAM WAS MADE IN WAKE OF DECISION TO PROVIDE HAWK MISSILES WHEN POSSIBILITY OF THIS DECISION BEING CHALLENGED WAS NOT ANTICIPATED. CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO SALE HAS IN EFFECT PUT THAT EARLIER DECISION IN SOME DOUBT AND WITH IT WHATEVER DECISIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONTINGENT ON IT. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT TEAM WOULD BE RESCHEDULED AS SOON AS DETERMINATION ON HAWKS IS MADE. SISCO

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